

*April 23, 2009*

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sandra Cantu, a child whose life was cut tragically short. Eight-year-old Sandra lived in Tracy, California, a town I am honored to represent.

Now known as "Tracy's precious angel," Sandra was a cheerful, friendly girl whose joy for life was evident whether she was doing cartwheels or playing on the jungle gym. She brightened the lives of everyone she came into contact with, even those who never met her, as was seen in the number of people at her memorial last week.

Her horrific kidnapping and death is a tragedy beyond description. No parent should have to experience the loss of a child, especially at such a young age.

I'm touched by the outpouring of support for Sandra's family from Tracy's residents, and the tireless work of the Tracy Police Department. Sandra Cantu will be missed, and I join those who grieve as we celebrate her short life.